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PATENT APPLICATION

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Patent Application of )

SATOSHI KONO ET AL. )

Serial No.: 07/485,659 )

Filed: February 27, 1990 )

For: CRANKSHAFT ASSEMBLY FOR )  
INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE )

Group Art Unit: 3502

Examiner: V. Luong

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GROUP 3500

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner  
of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.96-1.97 and MPEP § 609, the applicants, through their attorneys, hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner the references noted on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

The first document, Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 1-67352, was laid open to the public on April 28, 1989, after the priority date, February 27, 1989, of the present application. Therefore, this document does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102. Nevertheless, applicants note that this document shows a flywheel assembly (see Fig. 1) which includes a crankshaft 1, a flexible plate 2, a flywheel 7, and an annular

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member similar to the reinforcing member of the present invention.

The second document, Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 63-190639, shows a driving force transmitting system for an internal combustion engine. As shown in Fig. 1, this transmitting system has a crankshaft 1, a flexible plate 2, a flywheel 4, and a spacer 20. The spacer 20 has an outward flange 20a at the right end as viewed in Fig. 1, and a C-ring 21 as a stopper. Axial movement of the inner peripheral portion of the flywheel 4 is limited by the outward flange 20a on the right side and the stopper ring 21 on the left side.

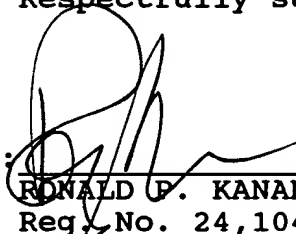
Although the documents cited are both in Japanese language, the above descriptions satisfy the requirement for a brief statement of relevance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3). A check in the amount of \$200.00 is enclosed to cover the fee provided for in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Since the prosecution in this application has been reopened by the Board of Patent Appeal and Interferences under 37 C.F.R. § 1.196(b), no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is required to ensure consideration of the documents. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to applicant's representative's Deposit Account No. 23-0978.

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It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 15, 1994

By:   
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